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Practitioner's Docket No.: 789_076 ***PATENT***

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Toshikazu HIROTA, Takao OHNISHI, Saichi YAMADA, Kazunari YAMADA, Yukihisa TAKEUCHI

Ser. No.: 10/068,292 Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Filed: February 6, 2002 Examiner: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: 9651

For: BIOCHIP AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail addressed to **Box Missing Parts, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231** on ***May 30, 2002.***

Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

Box Missing Parts
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this case, it is preferable that the first substance includes at least a silane coupling agent such as γ-aminopropyltriethoxysilane, poly-L-lysine, polyethyleneimine, or polyalkylamine; and the second substance includes at least organic acid such as succinic acid, gluconic acid, glycolic acid, malic acid, and acrylic acid; synthetic high-molecular acid such as polyacrylic acid, polylactic acid, dextran sulfate, and polyglycolic acid; or natural high-molecular acid such as alginic acid, polygalacturonic acid, hyaluronic acid, and chondroitin sulfuric acid.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 55, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this case, the first substance 116 is a silane coupling agent such as γ-aminopropyltriethoxysilane, poly-L-lysine, polyethyleneimine, or polyalkylamine, and the second substance 118 is succinic acid or polyacrylic acid.

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 31 and 32 as follows:

31. (Amended) The method for producing said biochip according to claim 11, wherein an area, in which said solution sample containing no capture is supplied onto said base plate, is substantially the same as an area to which said solution sample containing capture is supplied, or an area which includes said area to which said solution sample containing said capture is supplied, said area having a substantially circular shape.

32. (Amended) The method for producing said biochip according to claim 11, wherein an area, in which said solution sample containing no capture is supplied onto said base plate, has a size which includes two or more areas to each of which said solution sample containing capture is supplied.

REMARKS

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment in which the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claims 1-57 are pending herein. Applicants have amended claims 31 and 32 to correct matters of form. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

Attached hereto as pages 4 and 5 is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**."

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

May 30, 2002
Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 28, line 24, has been amended as follows:

In this case, it is preferable that the first substance includes at least a silane coupling agent such as γ-γ-aminopropyltriethoxysilane, poly-L-lysine, polyethyleneimine, or polyalkylamine; and the second substance includes at least organic acid such as succinic acid, gluconic acid, glycolic acid, malic acid, and acrylic acid; synthetic high-molecular acid such as polyacrylic acid, polylactic acid, dextran sulfate, and polyglycolic acid; or natural high-molecular acid such as alginic acid, polygalacturonic acid, hyaluronic acid, and chondroitin sulfuric acid.

The paragraph beginning at page 55, line 3, has been amended as follows:

In this case, the first substance 116 is a silane coupling agent such as γ-γ-aminopropyltriethoxysilane, poly-L-lysine, polyethyleneimine, or polyalkylamine, and the second substance 118 is succinic acid or polyacrylic acid.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 31 and 32 have been amended as follows:

31. (Amended) The method for producing said biochip according to claim 11, wherein an area, in which said solution sample containing no capture is supplied onto said base plate, is substantially the same as an area to which said solution sample containing ~~no~~ capture is supplied, or an area which includes said area to which said solution sample containing said capture is supplied, said area having a substantially circular shape.

32. (Amended) The method for producing said biochip according to claim 11, wherein an area, in which said solution sample containing no capture is supplied onto said base plate, has a size which includes two or more areas to each of which said solution sample containing ~~no~~ capture is supplied.